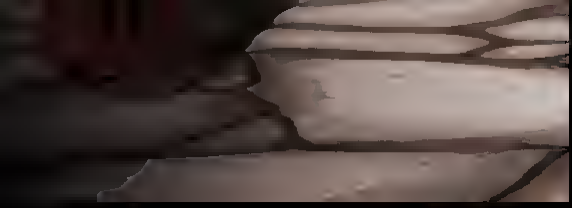
HOW DID YOU RESTRAIN YOURSELF ALL THOSE LONG YEARS?



BEING
UNABLE TO QUENCH
THAT DISGUSTING
THIRST YOU HAVE

I GUESS I WAS TOO RELAXED FOR LEAVING TOO MUCH TO THEM WITH SO MUCH FAITH...

HUMMMM~
THIS CHILD STILL HAS MUCH TO DO WITH HER LIFE.

SSSH-

TO SEE YOU USE THAT HEALING TECHNIQUE...
NO. YOU WEREN'T THAT STUPID WHEN YOU WERE WITH ME.

ARE YOU... THAT CONFIDENT?
GNASH
YOU'RE AS INSOLENT AS EVER, DARKSLUG.

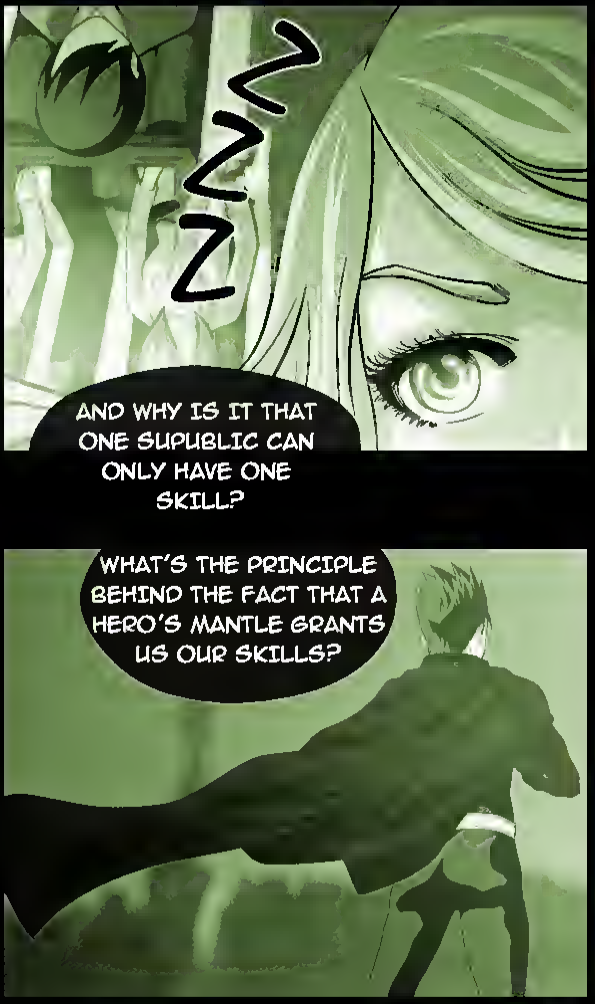
SIDEKICKS

EPISODE 45

ARTIST/WRITER
IRON SHIN

THE TRIAD PRANA...?

WE STILL HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT OURSELVES.
WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF OUR POWERS...


ZZZ
AND WHY IS IT THAT ONE SUPUBLIC CAN ONLY HAVE ONE SKILL?
WHAT'S THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND THE FACT THAT A HERO'S MANTLE GRANTS US OUR SKILLS?

THE SECRETS THAT ONLY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE AWARE OF.
AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THEM?

TO THINK THAT ALL OF THIS IS HAPPENING... SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO TELL ME BACK THEN
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS STRANGE WHEN THEO WOULD SUDDENLY HAVE NEW ABILITIES OR BECOME STRONGER OUT OF NOWHERE

ALL INFORMATION REGARDING THE PRANA HAS BEEN A GREATLY GUARDED SECRET THAT'S ONLY BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
BUT...SOMETHING HAPPENED MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO

THERE WAS AN INCIDENT WHERE A COUPLE OF VILLAINS DISCOVERED THE SECRETS OF THE PRANA.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO ERADICATE THE VILLAINS IN ORDER TO GUARD THAT SECRET.

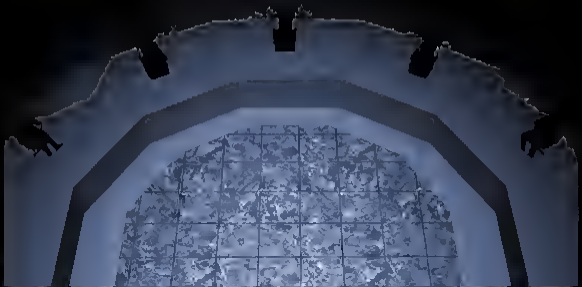
THE GREATEST HERO OF THAT ERA, GUARDIAN.

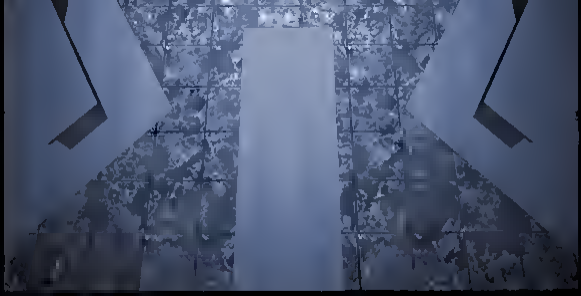
AND THE HERO THAT WAS KNOWN TO HAVE THE GREATEST SUPERPOWER WHICH CAN BE COMPARED WITH THAT OF GUARDIAN, DUNKELHEIT.

THEY PUT THEIR PERSONAL RIVALRY
ASIDE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF HEROES
AND TO FULFILL THEIR DUTIES.

THEY CLOSELY GUARDED THE PRANA.

AFTER THE INCIDENT,
THERE WERE NINE MEMBERS
ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
MEN WHO WERE OLD IN FLESH
AND WEAK IN POWER.





THEY CONCLUDED THAT THEY
WERE NOW TOO OLD AND WEAK
TO SAFEGUARD THE PRANA.

THEY DECIDED TO HIDE
THE THREE PIECES OF PRANAS
SEPARATELY.

THE FIRST PRANA WOULD BE
KEPT SECRET BY THE CHAIRMAN

THE THIRD PRANA WOULD BE KEPT
INSIDE HERO DUNKELHEIT'S BODY.

AND THE SECOND PRANA WAS TO BE GUARDED BY MY MASTER, GUARDIAN.

AND
THAT PERSON IS
THEO'S FATHER,
RIGHT?

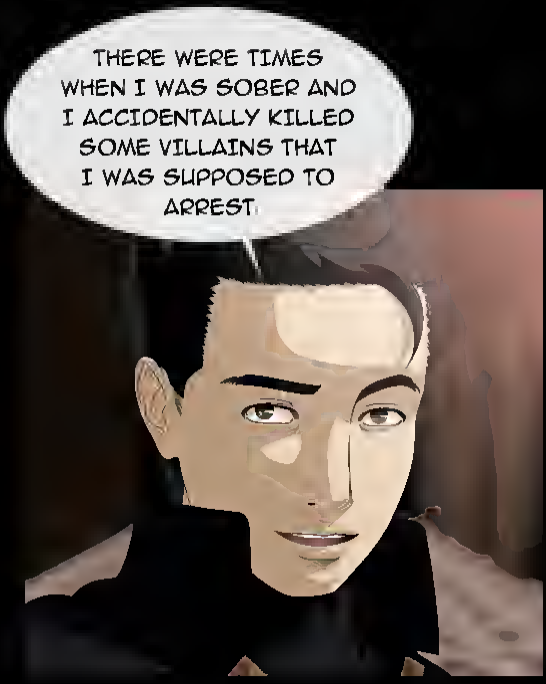
I WILL BE TAKING ALL THREE PRANAS.

STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP...

WHAM
ON THAT STUPID DREAM

CRASH

OH, SORRY.
LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T CONTROL MY STRENGTH AT THE MOMENT.
USUALLY I CAN CONTROL IT WITH SOME ALCOHOL IN ME.


THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I WAS SOBER AND I ACCIDENTALLY KILLED SOME VILLAINS THAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO ARREST.

AHHH...
PHAT-

BOOM

GRAB

CRASH

ZOOM-

GUARDIAN,
THE MAN WHO USED
TO BE MY MASTER...
WAS
A MAN OF MORALS
A STEADY AND FIRM MAN
WITH CONVICTION

EVERY SIDEKICK WANTED TO CALL HIM THEIR MASTER AND WAS WAS THE OBJECT OF ENVY AMONG THE SUPERBLICS.

AND HE HAD THE RESPECT OF THE CITIZENS.

AND THE HERO WHO WAS ALWAYS IN SUCH PERSON'S SHADOW, DUNKELHEIT

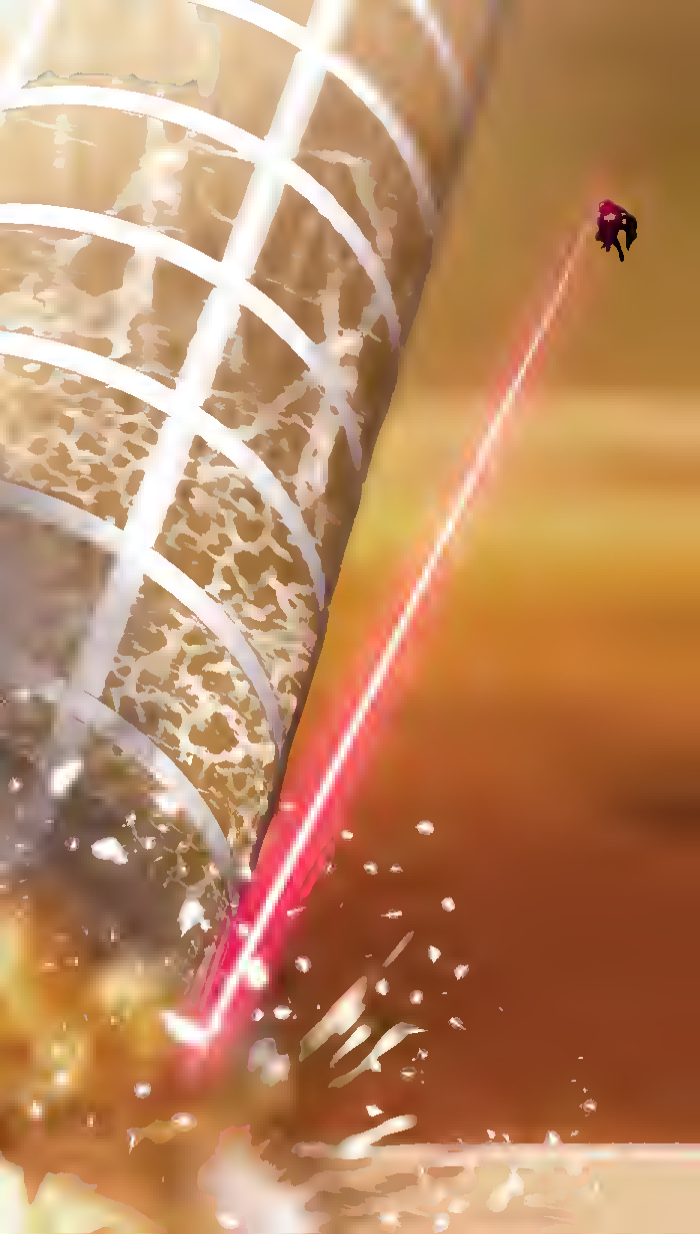
IT MIGHT BE DUE TO THAT, THAT HE BECAME SO OBSESSED WITH FAME.

TO BE AT THE TOP, THAT OBSESSION MAY HAVE BEEN HIS DRIVING FORCE, EVEN WITHOUT HIMSELF KNOWING IT.

SWOOSH-
TAP

POW
CRASH

WHROOOOOM-



BTOOM-

CLANK—

BUT BOTH OF THEM WERE STILL
THE TWO GREATEST HEROES

WITH MORALS AND ETHICS.

TO ENSURE THAT THEY WOULD
NEVER CRAVE THE POWERS
OF THE PRANA...

THERE WAS THE BELIEF THAT THEY WOULD NEVER USE THE PRANA IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT THEN...

CRACK

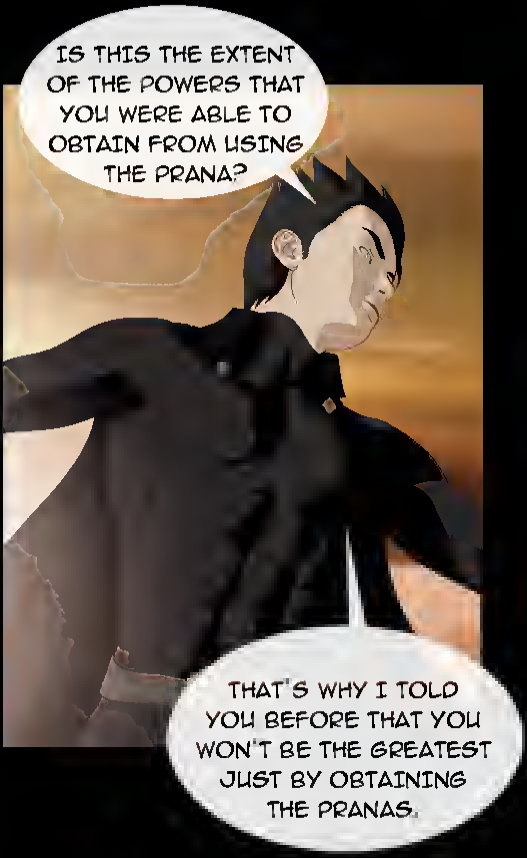
SOMETHING THAT
NO ONE EXPECTED TO HAPPEN,
HAD ACTUALLY HAPPENED.

WHEN THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT THE SECRET OF OUR POWER, AND GOT A PIECE OF THAT POWER...
DUNKELHEIT BETRAYED HIM AND...

HE TRIED TO HAVE ALL THREE PRANA FOR HIMSELF, RIGHT?

NO.
THE ONE THAT BETRAYED THE OTHER IS...

MY MASTER...
GUARDIAN.


IS THIS THE EXTENT OF THE POWERS THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN FROM USING THE PRANA?
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT YOU WON'T BE THE GREATEST JUST BY OBTAINING THE PRANAS.

MASTER.

- TO BE CONTINUED -

Honors Cape : episode 1

SIDEKICKS

ARTIST/WRITER

IRON SHIN

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